



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

PROFESSIONALISM HQ

Senior Coroner Mr Graeme Irvine
Walthamstow Coroners Court
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E17 8QP

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Deputy Assistant Commissioner
New Scotland Yard
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Date: 21 June 2021

Dear Mr Irvine

I am the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for The Directorate of Professionalism in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and I am responding on behalf of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to your Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths, dated 30th April 2021. Your report was sent following the conclusion of the inquest into the death of Mr Rohan-Dayal Singh who sadly died on 13th December 2018.

The MPS has acknowledged and reviewed all matters of concern raised by the Coroner and accept that matter of concern (1) should be considered by the MPS. Our response to this matter of concern is as follows:

Rohan Singh died on a mental health ward, following his death he was found to be in possession of number of prohibited items including controlled drugs and a bracelet consisting of a ligature and a blade. Before admission into hospital, Rohan had been subject to a personal search by police officers when the bracelet was seized. During Rohan's admission his property was subjected to a search and later he himself was searched for contraband, despite these steps he retained dangerous contraband.

This matter is concerned with the search of Mr Singh and seizure of his property by police officers, before being passed onto the Health Care Professionals who were responsible for the wellbeing of Mr Singh. Whilst there is no clear chain of causation between police action/inaction in relation to the search and seizure, this matter does highlight a point of learning for the Metropolitan Police Service in respect of record keeping. Where an officer has cause to undertake a search of a detained person, in any context, the property seized should be recorded in writing. If that property is then passed to a third party (for example, another police officer or a Health Care Professional) then a record of the person receiving that property, including the time and date, should be made. The Metropolitan Police Service will publish an Operational Notice on the MPS internal website which will be completed by 30th June 2021, instructing all officers in respect of these requirements and emphasise that there should be clear communication to all parties in relation to any transfer of property, especially where an element of risk is apparent.

In addition to the Operational Notice, the MPS already has in place guidance, policy and training for dealing with property from the proceeds of crime, criminal exhibits and further

guidance on dealing with lost and found property. However, following this matter of concern, we have identified an opportunity to develop additional training on recording property which falls outside these categories. The MPS will seek to implement this training across all our Basic Command Units through our current "Street Duties" course for probationer police constables.

In relation to the bracelet, consisting of a ligature and a blade, the MPS police officer who dealt with Mr Singh did not consider this to be an offensive weapon and therefore Mr Singh was not committing an offence by being in possession of them. The bracelets were subsequently passed to hospital staff in addition to his personal belongings. The officer involved has been spoken to by a supervisor and advised accordingly in relation to recording property and the circumstances where property can be seized by police.

In Conclusion

I wish to express my sincere condolences to the family of Mr Singh. The MPS is committed to promote a culture of learning and continuous improvement wherever possible.

I trust this provides the reassurance that the MPS has considered the matter of concern you have raised. Please do not hesitate in contacting me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Deputy Assistant Commissioner